

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4306

POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CA, GW

SUBJ: CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW

REF: OTTAWA 4262

1. ON NOV 18 PRIMIN TRUDEAU'S ADVISER, IVAN HEAD, CONFIRMED TO POLCOUNS THAT ARTICLES REPORTED REFTEL, WHILE SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE, WRE BY AND LARGE ACCURATE. HE CONFIRMED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE CABINET PLANS & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE HAD GIVEN GENERAL APPROVAL TO MAINTAINING THE PRESENT MIXED FORCE IN EUROPE AND REPLACING THE CENTURION TANKS WITH THE GERMAN MARK I LEOPARD TANKS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVE PURCHASE OF NEW LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT AND DEFERRAL OF NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT PURCHASES.

2. CONCERNING THE LRPA, HEAD SAID THAT ANOTHER CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY WILL HOPEFULLY DECIDE FINALLY WHICH OF THE THREE AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT WILL BE PURCHASED. HE SAID HE IS HOPEFUL AND HAS GROUNDS
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TO BELIEVE THAT THE "OFF THE SHELF" LOCKHEED P-3C WILL

BE REJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT ITS PURCHASE NOW WOULD REQUIRE NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD TO UPGRADE THESE AIRCRAFT TO THE STANDARDS THE US NAVY WILL BY THEN HAVE. THE CHOICE IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO COME DOWN TO THE BOEING 707 OR THE LOCKHEED P-3 WITH CANADIAN-SPECIFIED LRPA EQUIPMENT.

3. HEAD EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DECISION WOULD NOT BE ONE WHERE THE OFFSET TAIL WOULD BE WAGGING THE MILITARY DOG, BUT THAT INSTEAD THE BETTER AIRCRAFT TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED MILITARY FUNCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN THE NOD. HE SAID THAT BOTH BOEING AND LOCKHEED PACKAGES ENTAIL CONSIDERABLE OFFSET FOR CANADA. HOWEVER, WHILE THE BOEING OFFSET WORK FOR CANADA WOULD BE FOR NEW ITEMS UNFETTERED BY AN EXISTING CONTRACT COMMITMENTS IN THE US, THE LOCKHEED OFFER CONTAINS SMALL PRINT INDICATING THAT US GOVERNMENT APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED. THE COMPONENTS OF THE LOCKHEED OFFSET INCLUDE NOT ONLY AVIONICS BUT ALSO EXTENSIVE AIR FRAME ELEMENTS FOR AN EVENTUAL PRODUCTION OF 150 AIRCRAFT. ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT LOCKHEED MUST ALREADY HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS TO PERFORM MUCH OF THIS WORK IN THE US, HEAD FELT THAT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO FLAG FOR THE CABINET THE UNLIKELIHOOD THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD IN FACT APPROVE TRANSFER OF SUCH EXTENSIVE AIR FRAME WORK TO CANADA.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR FROM HEAD'S COMMENTS THAT THE CANADIAN MILITARY PREFER THE LOCKHEED LRPA (DATT CONFIRMS THIS) AND THAT HEAD THEREFORE HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE THE CABINET'S DECISION DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE LOCKHEED OFFSET. IF THE CABINET SHARES THIS PREFERENCE, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE GOC, BEFORE IT SIGNS ON DOTTED LINE, WILL APPROACH USG FOR ASSURANCE THAT LOCKHEED CAN IN FACT DELIVER THE OFFSET CONTAINED IN ITS PACKAGE. PORTER

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